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RELEASED

CHINA: BUSH-LI PENG MEETING

Q: Why did President Bush decide to meet with Chinese premier Li Peng in New York this Friday? What will they discuss?

A: -- PRESIDENT BUSH WILL MEET WITH ALL HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ATTENDING THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL SUMMIT, INCLUDING PREMIER LI.

-- IN KEEPING WITH THE LONGSTANDING ADMINISTRATION POLICY OF CONSTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT WITH CHINA, THE MEETING

WILL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE AT THE HIGHEST

LEVEL OUR CONCERNs ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS,

NONPROLIFERATION AND TRADE.

-- THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH LI WILL PROVIDE AN

OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD ON THE RESULTS OF SECRETARY

BAKER'S NOVEMBER TRIP TO BEIJING, DURING WHICH CLEAR

PROGRESS WAS MADE ON NUCLEAR AND MISSILE

NONPROLIFERATION AND TRADE, AND SOME GAINS MADE ON

HUMAN RIGHTS.

-- FOR EXAMPLE, THE CHINESE HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO COMPLETE

RATIFICATION OF THE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION TREATY BY

APRIL, HAVE PLEDGED TO ABIDE BY THE GUIDELINES AND

PARAMETERS OF THE MISSILE TECHNOLOGY CONTROL REGIME,

AND HAVE AGREED TO MEASURES WHICH WILL EFFECTIVELY

PROTECT AMERICAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.

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- THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN SOME RECENT POSITIVE STEPS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RELEASE OF SEVERAL PERSONS IMPRISONED FOR THE PEACEFUL EXPRESSION OF POLITICAL OR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, AND EXIT PERMISSION FOR SEVERAL DISSIDENTS AND THEIR RELATIVES.
- HOWEVER, MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE ON HUMAN RIGHTS. IN THAT RESPECT, WE ARE PLEASED TO NOTE THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS RICHARD SCHIFTER WILL MEET <sup>RY</sup> WITH CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER DIRECTOR QIN HUASUN TODAY TO CONTINUE OUR ONGOING HUMAN RIGHTS DIALOGUE.

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